

Acts 26:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

Analysis

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles (ἐξαιρούμενός σε ἐκ τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ ἐκ τῶν ἔθνων)—God's promise of protection to Paul, using exairoumenos (rescuing, delivering), a present participle emphasizing continuous divine intervention. **The people** refers specifically to Israel, while **the Gentiles** encompasses all nations—Paul would face opposition from both. This parallels Christ's own rejection by Jews and Gentiles (Luke 23:12).

Unto whom now I send thee (εἰς οὓς ἐγώ σε ἀποστέλλω)—The verb apostellō (to send as an authorized agent) is the root of 'apostle.' Christ sends Paul to the very groups that will persecute him, modeling redemptive mission in the face of hostility. The deliverance promise precedes the commission, assuring Paul that opposition cannot thwart God's sovereign purposes (cf. Romans 8:31).

Historical Context

Spoken during Paul's Damascus road encounter (c. AD 34), this prophecy proved true throughout his ministry. Paul faced Jewish plots (Acts 9:23-24, 20:3, 23:12-15), Gentile riots (Acts 16:19-24, 19:23-41), and imprisonment, yet survived to testify before governors, kings, and eventually Caesar. He recounts this promise before Agrippa (c. AD 60) after 25+ years of fulfilled deliverance.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of deliverance free you to engage in risky obedience to your calling?
2. What does it reveal about God's character that He sends Paul to those who will oppose him, with protection rather than exemption from suffering?

Interlinear Text

ἐξαιρούμενός	σε	ἐκ	τοῦ	λαοῦ	καὶ	τῶν	ἐθνῶν
Delivering	thee	from	G3588	the people	and	G3588	from the Gentiles
G1807	G4571	G1537		G2992	G2532		G1484
εἰς	οὓς	νῦν	σε	ἀποστέλλω			
unto	whom	now	thee	I send			
G1519	G3739	G3568	G4571	G649			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:15 (Parallel theme): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Jeremiah 1:19 (Parallel theme): And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

1 Timothy 2:7 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Jeremiah 1:8 (Parallel theme): Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Romans 11:13 (Parallel theme): For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

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